Income Tax Act, 1961

5676. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had upto last financial year enlarged Section 81 (A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to provide an industrial undertaking located in North Eastern Region which began production/manufacture/operates cold storage plant and generates power on or after April 1, 1993, would get 100% Income Tax relief for the initial 5 years and 30% for the next five years;

(b) if so, whether this concession has been considerably curtailed by the Minimum Alternate Tax proposed in the Finance Bill 1996; and

(c) if so, the effect of this curtailment in the Industry-starved N.E. Region of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI. P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir, under section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, Industrial undertakings commencing operation in certain notified backward states of the country are provided tax concession. In the north-eastern region, this benefit is available to the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

(b) and (c). Profits of industrial undertakings located in backward States and fulfilling the conditions laid down in section 80–IA have bn exempted from the purview of the Minimum Alternate Tax, by Government amendment to the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1996.

Import of Silk

5677. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of silk (including silk yarn, silk garments etc.) imported during the last three years;

(b) whether there is persistant demand from silk growers in the country to impose completely ban on import of silk; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). There have been demands for banning/restricting import of raw silk. Under the current Export-Import Policy raw silk is already in the Negative List of imports and presently it is being allowed only under the Adyance Licensing Scheme (ALS) to enable Indian silk exporters to meet their raw material requirements at international prices. As such it is not considered desirable to impose complete ban on import of raw silk. However, th policy is reviewed from time to time and modified to ensure that it may not affect sericulture industry in India.

The imports of silk are primarily in the form of raw silk/ slik yarn and quantum of such imports in the last 3 years were as under :

	(in tonnes)
1993-94	4892
1994-95	5403
1995-96	4195 (Provisional)

Schools run by E.C.L.

5678. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited propose to run schools itself as it done by other Public Sector Undertakings of the coal industry ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ECL has moved the Government of West Bengal for recognition/affiliation of the schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) None of the schools located in and around coal mines under ECL are run by ESL Management.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Not applicable in view of reply at (c) and (a) above.

Additional Resources Mobilisation by States

5679. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked different States to work on the additional resources mobilisation;

(b) if so, the steps taken by different States in that regard during Eighth Plan; and

(c) the State-wise details thereof ?